

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-73. Claims 3, 59, 62 and 73 have been amended. Claims 1-58 and 63-72 have been allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-58 and 63-72.

Claim 3 was objected to due to a minor typographical error. Claim 3 has been amended to correct the typographical error.

Claims 62 and 73 stand objected to as being in improper form. Although applicants did not understand the rejection, applicants have amended claims 62 and 73 to read "a method according to any one of claims 59-61". Applicants respectfully request that if this is not suitable the Examiner perform an Examiner amendment to correct the deficiency or call applicant's agent to request correction.

Claims 59-61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Razgulov et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,908,662). Claim 59 has been amended to clarify that the inverting of the tips is performed by inverting the engaged points. This amendment clarifies, what was already inherent in the claim, that the inversion is of the engaged points, that is of the points after they are engaged.

In Razgulov, in contrast, the inverting of the tip is performed in order to attach the tip of the vessel to the spikes 13, using pincers (column 7, lines 1-13 and 55-60). Razgulov does not teach or suggest inverting the engaged points. Once points of the tip are engaged to the spikes 13, no inversion is taught or suggested.

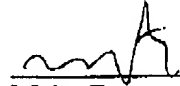
Dependent claim 61 adds further patentability over Razgulov. Claim 61 requires engaging the tip using forceps and rotating said forceps. Razgulov does not teach or suggest such rotation of forceps.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe the application is allowable. Consideration of the previously cited art and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

088/02389 A02

In the event that the Examiner cannot issue a notice of allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (toll free) (877) 428-5468. This telephone connects directly to the undersigned's office in Israel, which is 7 hours ahead of Washington. Our normal work week is Sunday through Thursday and the undersigned is generally available until 11:00 AM, Washington time.

Respectfully submitted,
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